



Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agriculture Information Network

Voluntary Report - public distribution

Date: 5/13/2002

GAIN Report #CO2011

Colombia

Poultry and Products

Colombia Halts Imports of All Live Poultry and Some Poultry Products 2002

Approved by:

David G. Salmon

U.S. Embassy

Prepared by:

David G. Salmon, Alberto Restrepo

Report Highlights:

Due to the Avian Influenza outbreak in Virginia and North Carolina, Colombia has halted imports of live poultry from all of the United States and imports of all live poultry and poultry products from the two states where the outbreaks occurred.

Includes PSD changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Bogota [CO1], CO

As a result of the outbreak of Low-Pathogenic Avian Influenza in Virginia and North Carolina, Colombia issued a resolution on May 8, 2002, halting imports of live poultry from all of the United States and imports of all live poultry and poultry products from the two states where the outbreaks occurred. Post has clarified that the statement in Article No. 1 halting imports for "products coming from the United States that represent a risk of AI virus transmission" does not include imports of Mechanically Deboned Chicken, which represent a large portion of U.S. poultry exports to Colombia.

The Instituto Colombiano Agropecuario (ICA), the equivalent of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, has indicated that they will require a Colombian inspector to travel to the two Virginia and North Carolina "to check the actions taken (in the U.S.) to control and eradicate the existing outbreaks," before considering when the halt on imports might be removed. The visit by the ICA inspector has not yet been scheduled.

An unofficial translation of the ICA resolution follows:

(Unofficial Translation)

RESOLUTION No. 00963

May 8, 2002

By which sanitary actions are taken to prevent the entry of the Avian Influenza (AI) into Colombia.

THE GENERAL MANAGER OF THE COLOMBIAN AGRICULTURAL INSTITUTE (ICA)

By using his legal empowerment, especially the ones granted by the Decrees 2141 of 1992, 2645 of 1993, and 1840 of 1994, and Resolution 447 of 1997 by the Andean Community of Nations, and

TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THAT:

Avian Influenza outbreaks have been registered in commercial turkey and chicken operations in the States of Virginia and North Carolina in the United States.

The number of farms affected as well as the time since those outbreaks were detected indicate a quick dissemination of the virus. Given these factors, the characteristics of the disease, and the existence of a permanent commercial relationship with Colombia, this situation becomes a risk for the national poultry population.

According to official APHIS information, the isolated and identified strains of these outbreaks belong to a virus of AI sub-type H7N2. Although these strains are of low pathogenicity, they have the capability to mutate toward strains of high pathogenicity.

Colombia has not registered AI outbreaks and therefore is necessary to take actions toward the prevention of the risk of entering the disease to the national poultry industry.

An *in situ* verification is of paramount importance to check the actions taken (in the U.S.) to control and eradicate the existing outbreaks. Also, the visit will evaluate the risk of the AI transmission to the Colombian poultry industry through the U.S. (Poultry) imports.

ICA DETERMINES

ARTICLE No. 1 - To stop the issuance of zoo-sanitary import documents for the one-day chicks, grown chickens, other (poultry/fowl) species and their products coming from the United States that represent a risk of AI virus transmission.

Paragraph.- For the States of Virginia and North Carolina, the suspension of issuance zoosanitary import documents for imports applies without exception to all birds and their products.

ARTICLE No. 2 - To verify *in situ* the effectiveness of the actions taken (by the U.S.) and evaluate the risk of the disease entry into Colombia through imports of birds and products coming from the United States.

Paragraph. - The costs originated by the travel and stay of ICA officials to carry out the (inspection) visit will be totally paid for by the affected country in this Resolution.

ARTICLE No. 3 - This Resolution is in force on the day of its issuance.

To be published, communicated and executed.

Bogota, D.C., May 8, 2002

(Signed by)

Alvaro Abisambra
General Manager